

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01761 311614Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 AID-05 MCT-01 NEAE-00
/094 W
-----061136 311844Z /45 64

P R 230600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7420
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY JUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 1761

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 1761 VICE 1621 MCN 7420 VICE 7332)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SY
SUBJ: STRAINS IN THE CONFRONTATION STATES

1. THE DAMASCUS MEDIA HAS LITTLE FURTHER TO SAY ABOUT MEETINGS OF FOREING AND DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE "CONFRONTATION AND RESISTANCE FRONT" WHICH ENDED IN DAMASCUS MARCH 20. MEDIA COMMENTARIES HINT THAT MORE OCCURRED THAN WAS APPARENT FROM THE TEPID FINAL COMMUNIQUE, BUT FROM INITIAL REPORTS, THIS APPEARS TO BE A SMOKESCREEN TO MARK A MEETING WHICH SHOWED THE FRONT'S WEADNESS WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A MAJOR CHALLENGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01761 311614Z

2. FRENCH EMBOFF, WHO TALKED TO PALESTINIANS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE MEETINGS, TOLD US THAT PLO REPS WERE VERY ASSERTIVE AND PROUD OF THE ROLE THEY WERE PLAYING IN LEBANON. SYRIANS WERE EMBARRASSED AND ON DEFENSIVE, MAKING IT CLEAR TO THEIR "ALLIES" THAT SYRIA NEEDED MORE AID. LIBYANS WERE UPSET THAT SYRIANS WERE NOT DOING MORE FOR THE PLO, AND THIS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BORNE OUT BY QADDHAFI'S RAMBLING TELEVISED

SPEECH IN WHICH HE POSED QUESTION AS TH WHETHER FURTHER LIBYAN FINANCIAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT FOR SYRIA MADE SENSE IN THE FACE OF ITS PASSIVITY IN LEBANON. ACCORDING TO FRENCH, ALGERIANS GENERALLY LINED UP WITH THE SYRIANS AND WERE UNDERSTANDING OF SYRIA'S PRECICAMENT.

3. THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE, IRAQI AMBASSADOR HERE WAS ACTIVELY CORNERING DELEGATES BETWEEN SESSIONS. LIKELY SYMPATHETIC HEARING HE GOT FROM THE LEBYANS MAY ACCOUNT FOR SYRIA'S PERMISSION TO PERMIT IRAQI "VOLUNTEERS" AND MATERIEL TO TRANSIT COUNTRY ON WAY TO SOUTH LEBANON.

4. IT IS PREMATURE TO PREDICT THAT THE FRONT WILL DISSOLVE, BUT ADSSAD'S SIGNALS THAT UNDER THE PROPER CIRCUMSTANCES SYRIA COULD AGAIN WORK WITH SADAT AND THE LACK OF STRONG SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR THE PLO DURING THE FIGHTING ARE NOT LIKELY TO REASSURE THE MERCURIAL QADDHAFI.

MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PALESTINIANS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAMASC01761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780140-0651
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780333/aaaabbxo.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 423c1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3229365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRAINS IN THE CONFRONTATION STATES
TAGS: PEPR, SY, LE, IS, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/423c1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014